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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shih-Chieh Hung et al.

Art Unit : 1636

Serial No. : 09/761,893

Examiner : Bronwen Loeb

Filed : January 17, 2001

Title : METHOD OF ISOLATING MESSENCHYMAL STEM CELLS

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 23, 2001

In response to the office action mailed November 23, 2001, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Amend paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1 as follows:

FIG. 3(a) and FIG. 3(b) show osteogenic induction of human mesenchymal cell cultures.

Cells in the induction group exhibited a higher degree of positive stain for alkaline phosphatase as shown in FIG. 3(a) than cells in the control as shown in FIG. 3(b).

Amend paragraphs beginning at page 6, lines 8 as follows:

FIG. 5(a) and FIG. 5(b) show adipogenic differentiation of mesenchymal cell cultures.

Cells in the induction group exhibited a higher degree of positive stain for Oil-red O as shown in FIG. 5(a) than cells in the control as shown in FIG. 5(b) after induction for 7 days.

FIG. 6(a) and FIG. 6(b) show chondrogenic differentiation of mesenchymal cell cultures.

Cells exhibited chondrocyte morphology in Safranin-O stain as shown in FIG. 6(a); and toluidine blue stain as shown in FIG. 6(b) after induction for 21 days.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

March 22, 2002

Date of Deposit

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Deborah R. Nast

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate